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## CONDITIONS OF MUSIC.

It is a strange thing, the subtle form and condition of music. When the composer has conceived it in his mind, the music itself is not there;—when he has committed it to paper, it is still not there;—when he has called together his orchestra and choristers from the north and the south, it is there—but gone again when they disperse. It has always, as it were, to put on mortality afresh. It is ever being born anew, but to die away and leave only dead notes and dumb instruments behind. No wonder that there should have been men of shallow reasoning powers or defective musical feeling, who in the fugitiveness of the form, have seen only the frivolity of the thing, and have tried to throw contempt upon it accordingly. But, in truth, such critics have hit upon the highest argument in favor of the art; for how deep, on the contrary, must be the foundations of that pleasure which has so precarious a form of outward expression; how intensely must that enjoyment be interwoven with the godlike elements of our being, in which mere outward sense has so fleeting a share! The very limitation of its material resources is the greatest proof of its spiritual powers. We feel its influence to be so heavenly, that, were it not for the grossness of our natures, we should take it in, not by the small channel of the ear alone, but by every pore of our frames.—“*Essay on Music.*”—*Quarterly Review.*

## Reviews of Books.

*Musical Celebrations on St. Cecilia's Day.* By William Henry Husk. Bell and Daldy, Fleet Street.

The legend respecting St. Cecilia is one of the most ancient and beautiful handed down to us by the Church. It has inspired poets and musicians of all ages to exercise their talents in praise of the Patroness of Music; and it is impossible too highly to appreciate the beneficial influence that the celebrations of St. Cecilia's Day have exercised in promoting a taste for and a cultivation of the higher branches of the Art. It is undeniable that they have been the origin of the numerous musical festivals which have sprung up throughout the country. Mr. Husk, who is well known as the librarian of the Sacred Harmonic Society, has collected with infinite pains and labour an account of every celebration of St. Cecilia during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, giving a description of the poetical and musical compositions used upon the various occasions. The work reflects the greatest credit upon the author, who has shown considerable talent in the treatment of the subject, and has exercised much taste in introducing a variety of entertaining anecdotes relative to music and musicians generally. It altogether forms a very useful, as well as interesting history of the origin and progress of choral societies. The odes in honour of St. Cecilia, and in praise of Music, are all collected, and are a valuable addition to the book.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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*The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.*

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*Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.*

*We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.*

*We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.*

*Cecilia*—The word “*keraulophon*,” applied to one of the stops in an organ, is compounded of the Greek words, *κεραυλης*, a player upon a pipe or flute, and *φωνη*, sound. We can give you no information about the old Gloucestershire song you mention.

*Harmony*.—You cannot do better than use “*Catel's Treatise on Harmony*,” as a cheap and easy work for a beginner, price 2s. 6d. You can afterwards study *Albrechtsberger*, the most complete treatise on the subject. Both these books can be obtained at our publisher's.

## Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

AMERSHAM.—Mr. Birch gave a morning and an evening concert, at the Town Hall, on the 13th ult. The music consisted of English ballads, glees, and madrigals. The performers were Mrs. H. J. Barnby, from London, and Messrs. Knowles, Marriott, Mudge, and Bridgewater, from the Chapel Royal, Windsor.

ABERDEEN.—PSALMODY ASSOCIATION.—The first public meeting for the season of the General Association for the Improvement of Psalmody, was held in the East Church, on the 25th of March; the Lord Provost in the chair. The attendance of visitors was very large, there being 1600 persons present; the progress of the choir was admitted to be considerable. The principal object of the association is to improve the congregational singing in churches, and this they appear to be doing with great effect.

BARDSLEY.—On Easter Monday, the choir of the Holy Trinity Church, Bardsley, held their first annual tea party in the School-room of the Church, when about 80 persons assembled. During the evening, several anthems were satisfactorily sung by the choir, and suitable addresses delivered by the chairman and other gentlemen. Mr. S. Mills, organist, presided at the harmonium, and conducted.

BATH.—The eleventh concert at the Guildhall, on 16th of March, was numerously attended. The Misses Joesbury and Mr. J. Estens performed upon this occasion. Conductor, Mr. J. H. Macfarlane.

BERWICK.—The class for sacred music conducted by Mr. James Sidey, was brought to a close on the 22nd of March, with a concert, which was given in the Low meeting. The selection of music was good, and was well executed.

BICESTER.—A class for promoting the knowledge of Music has, throughout the past season, regularly met in the National School-room at Bicester; and the fruit of its labours has been publicly shewn at two concerts—each well attended. The selection of their last concert, on the 3rd instant, comprised a portion of the *Messiah*, and a variety of secular pieces.

BIRMINGHAM.—A selection of sacred music was performed by the Festival Choral Society, on the 30th ult., at the Town Hall. Principal vocalists—Miss Whitham, Messrs. Montem Smith, Bickley, Forman, and Thomas. Organist, Mr. Stimpson. Chorus-master and conductor, Mr. Stockley. The band and chorus consisted of 250 performers.

BUCKS. COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM.—A concert of sacred music was held here on Easter Monday. Mr. Rose, who is regularly engaged to teach the patients, brought over with him several vocalists from Haddenham. In the course of the evening, the unfortunate inmates sang several times; in the chorus of “*Rule, Britannia*,” their voices were overwhelming; they gave some of the Church Service in a creditable manner: in each piece they seemed greatly to enjoy themselves.

CANTERBURY.—Mr. Gough, of the Cathedral Choir, gave his annual vocal and instrumental concert, at the New Music Hall, on the 13th of April. The principal per-

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